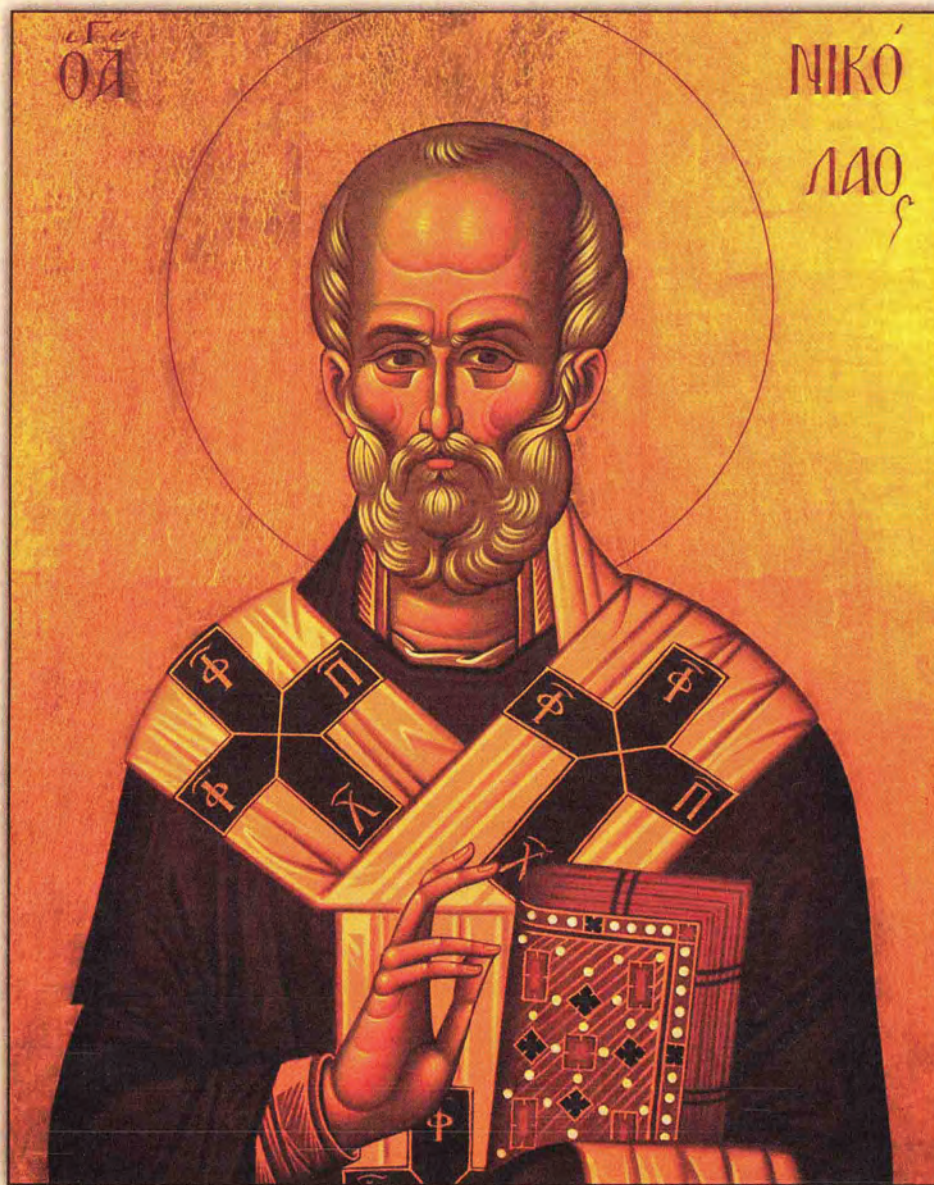


TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
TENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE



Icon of Saint Nicholas -- December 6th

December 4, 2011

25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

THE HOLY GREAT MARTYR BARBARA; OUR VENERABLE FATHER JOHN DAMASCENE

Tone 8

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 5 - DECEMBER 11

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6 – *NICHOLAS, ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA IN LYCEA, WONDERWORKER*

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9 – *CONCEPTION BY ST. ANNA OF THE IMMACULATE MOTHER OF GOD*

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10 – *HOLY MARTYRS, MENAS AND OTHERS*

6:00 PM - Great Vespers for Sunday

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 – *SUNDAY OF THE HOLY ANCESTORS OF CHRIST*

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy For All Parishioners

Christmas Bazaar - December 18

To ensure an adequate amount of varenyky for everyone, place your order for varenyky, kolach, kutia and makivnyk today! Call 619-567-6967 to order. St. Nicholas will visit our parish and distribute gifts to all the good children on December 18.

Greeting Cards

Christmas Cards and various other greeting cards are for sale in the Church Hall. Please see Mary Kitt to purchase.



Let's go Caroling!

Between December 25 and February 2 we will be organizing visits to our parishioners, shut-ins, and nursing homes. If you are interested in participating or you would like to be visited or you know of someone who would like to be visited, please contact Fr. James.

Hall Decorating

Please come on Saturday, December 17th at 10:30 AM to help decorate the Hall for the Christmas Bazaar and visit from St. Nicholas.

Church Decorating

Please come on Tuesday, December 20th at 10:00 AM to help decorate the Church for the feast of the Nativity of our Lord.

Tropar of St. Nicholas

An example of the Faith and a life of humility, as a teacher of abstinence you did inspire and lead your flock, and through the truthfulness of your deeds were exalted by greatness, through your humility uplifting all and by poverty gaining wealth. Father and hierarch Nicholas, intercede with Christ our God that our souls may be saved.

December Birthdays

12/3	Mary Kitt
12/13	Sofia Bankston
12/13	John R. Heltsley II
12/15	Stefania Moore

If you know of someone who should be included for December, please let Fr. James know.

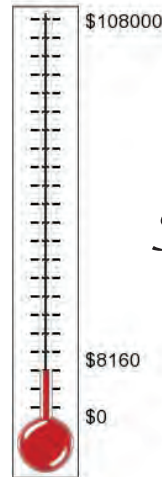
Sunday offering for November 27

Amount	Number
\$8.00	1 (loose)
\$10.00	2
\$15.00	1
\$20.00	2
\$25.00	1
\$35.00	1
\$40.00	2
\$50.00	3
\$75.00	3
\$80.00	1
\$100.00	2
\$400.00	1
<hr/> \$1,278.00	<hr/> 20

Average / household (38): \$33.63

Weekly Stewardship Goal: \$2125.00

Shortfall: -\$847.00



Stewardship Pledges



The Great Martyr, Barbara

A saint in the highest tradition of purity and piety, Barbara is listed in some church branches as one of the fourteen auxiliary saints who are sometimes referred to as holy “Helpers,” but she held out so much hope for so many of the faithful in all walks of life that she was adopted by various segments of society as their artillerymen and firemen and just about everyone engaged in hazardous occupations. She is regarded by some as the safeguard against sudden death.

The purity of Saint Barbara is such that her name can be invoked on any occasion with the assurance that her virtue is an answer to evil in any form.

– The Great Horologion (Book of Hours)



St. John of Damascus - defender of Icons

In times past, God, without body and form, could in no way be represented. But now, since God has appeared in the flesh and lived among men, I can depict that which is visible of God...[for Christ is “the image of the invisible God. (Col. 1:15.)] I do not venerate the matter but I venerate the Creator of matter, Who became matter for me, Who condescended to live in matter, and Who, through matter accomplished my salvation; I do not cease to respect the matter through which my salvation is accomplished.

– From First Homily in Defense of the Holy Icons.



**Українська Греко-Католицька Церква
Святого Йоана Хрестителя
St. John the Baptizer
Ukrainian Greco-Catholic Church**

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Website: stjohnthebaptizer.org

Pastor: Fr. James Bankston

Папox: о. Яків Бенкстон

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Fr. James' cell phone: (619) 905-5278

The Legendary Saint Nicholas

The absence of the “hard facts” of history is not necessarily an obstacle to the popularity of saints, as the devotion to St. Nicholas shows. Both the Eastern and Western Churches honor him, and it is claimed that, after the Theotokos, he is the saint most pictured by Christian artists. And yet, historically, we can pinpoint only the fact that Nicholas was the fourth-century bishop of Myra, a city in Lycia, a province of Asia Minor.

As with many of the saints, however, we are able to capture the relationship which Nicholas had with God through the admiration which Christians have had for him – an admiration expressed in the colorful stories which have been told and retold through the centuries.

Perhaps the best-known story about Nicholas concerns his charity toward a poor man who was

unable to provide dowries for his three daughters of marriageable age. Rather than see them forced into prostitution, Nicholas secretly tossed a bag of gold through the poor man's window on three separate occasions, thus enabling the daughters to be married. Over the centuries, this particular legend evolved into the custom of gift-giving on the saint's feast. In the English-speaking countries, St. Nicholas became, by a twist of the tongue, Santa Claus – further expanding the example of generosity portrayed by this holy bishop.

The critical eye of modern history makes us take a deeper look at the legends surrounding St. Nicholas. But perhaps we can utilize the lesson taught by his legendary charity, look deeper at our approach to material goods in the Christmas season and seek ways to extend our sharing to those in real need.